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HOUSE BILL 198

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY
Mimi Stewart

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; CREATING THE K-3 PLUS PILOT PROJECT
TO PROVIDE EXTENDED TIME FOR STUDENTS IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH
THIRD GRADE IN HIGH-POVERTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS; PROVIDING AN
APPLICATION PROCESS; REQUIRING REPORTING; MAKING AN
APPROPRIATION; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. A new section of the Public School Code is
enacted to read:

"NEW MATERIAL K-3 PLUS--PILOT PROJECT--ELIGIBILITY--
APPLICATION--REPORTING AND EVALUATION.--

A. "K-3 plus" is created as a six-year pilot
project that extends the school year for kindergarten through
third grade by up to two months for participating students and
measures the effect of additional time on literacy, numeracy

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1 and social skills development. The purpose of K-3 plus is to
2 demonstrate that increased time in kindergarten and the early
3 grades narrows the achievement gap between disadvantaged
4 students and other students and increases cognitive skills and
5 leads to higher test scores for all participants.

6 B. K-3 plus shall be administered by the department
7 and shall provide the funding for approved full-day
8 kindergarten and grades one through three to be extended by at
9 least twenty-five instructional days, beginning up to two
10 months earlier than other classes.

11 C. K-3 plus shall be conducted in high-poverty
12 public schools. For the purposes of K-3 plus, "high-poverty
13 public school" means a public school in which eighty-five
14 percent or more of the students are eligible for free or
15 reduced-fee lunch at the time the public school applies for the
16 program.

17 D. The department shall determine application
18 requirements and procedures and criteria for evaluating
19 applications. An applicant shall demonstrate that its K-3 plus
20 program will meet all department standards and employ only
21 qualified teachers and other staff. The department shall
22 provide additional professional development for K-3 plus
23 teachers in how young children learn to read. Teachers and
24 educational assistants shall be paid at the same rate and under
25 the same terms for K-3 plus as teachers and educational

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1 assistants are paid for regular educational programs.

2 E. Students participating in K-3 plus shall be
3 evaluated at the beginning of K-3 plus, and their progress
4 shall be measured through standardized assessments as follows:

5 (1) in literacy, the dynamic indicator of
6 basic early literacy skills in kindergarten and in grades one
7 through three; and

8 (2) in numeracy, in grades three and four.

9 F. The department shall establish reporting and
10 evaluation requirements for participating schools, including
11 student and program assessments. The department shall provide
12 interim and final reports annually to the legislature and the
13 governor on the efficacy of K-3 plus."

14 Section 2. APPROPRIATION.--Eight million dollars
15 (\$8,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
16 public education department for expenditure in fiscal years
17 2007 and 2008 to implement the K-3 plus pilot project. Any
18 unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of
19 fiscal year 2008 shall revert to the general fund.

20 Section 3. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public
21 peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.